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ABSTRACT

Notwithstanding its many problems, Canada's education system enjoys an enviable level of equality of opportunity and still manages to perform as well as systems in England and the United States. But Canadian education has been weakened by its adoption of progressivism, or child-centered education, an educational system that is "harmful, unjustifiable, and undemocratic." The most important aspect of the education of a child is one of character, i.e., "becoming a good and virtuous person is more important than either skills or material success." Challenging the one-size-fits-all approach to educational policy, a radical proposal for deregulating the educational system is proposed that advocates creation of a broad range of schools to accommodate the wishes of parents and the goals of a pluralistic society. These include moving to central control over money and accountability, together with more parental choice. The difficulties that have emerged are not caused by lack of money, but by poor allocation of funds and inappropriate priorities. (Contains references, an appendix with recommended educational policies, and an index.) (DFR)

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